

Our Lady of Dolours, Botanic Avenue, Glasnevin, D09K5R6

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Mass Intentions:

Sunday 21/6/20 Christy Munroe (A)

Monday 22/6/20 Holy Souls

Tuesday 23/6/20 Kathleen Maxwell (R/D)

Wednesday 24/6 Holy Souls



Reflection: We have all got a bit of a lift over the past couple of weeks seeing the country beginning to pick up again, more shops opening in town, sporting fixtures beginning to take place, even the possibility of hair dressing salons reopening sooner than anticipated! There is also a real excitement about preparing to welcome back parishioners again for the celebration of Mass very soon. It has been so long since we have been able to gather as a Eucharistic community, and we have missed it. Participating at Mass via webcam or television over the past three months has been a great blessing, but now we can look forward to actually seeing one another and praying together. Our steering committee have been working very hard over the past couple of weeks to ensure that we are ready to welcome you back to the church and to provide clear guidelines for the safety of all.

Together with the joyful anticipation of starting back, we know there is a certain hesitancy as well. We have learned as a nation, indeed as a human race, to live with an underlying anxiety for ourselves, our loved ones and for all frontline workers in the face of a pandemic which we cannot see but whose effects we have witnessed. We have been extraordinarily compliant with government guidelines about staying at home and have contributed to preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Now as we begin to return to the business and social activities which were so much part of our lives previously, there is an understandable concern about its possible consequences.

The words of Jesus in today's Gospel seem to speak to our situation: 'Do not be afraid'. It is a call to trust. We have to move forward, carefully, still exercising consideration for one another, but move forward all the same. We don't always know what lies ahead in life but we know we believe in a God who cares for us intimately: 'Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid'.

A weekly Zoom meeting to look at the Scripture readings for the following Sunday takes place each Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Contact the parish office or Fr. Richard (richardsheehy@gmail.com) for the meeting ID number and password.

Contributing to the Parish We are very grateful to parishioners who have either posted contributions to the parish or deposited them in the safe at the back of the church over the past couple of weeks. Those who still have contributions at home can drop them in anytime in the coming days. Alternatively you can send in a monthly or quarterly cheque for the equivalent amount.

We now have a 'Donate' button on the front page of our parish website. If you click on this, it will open up a number of options so that you can donate online to the particular collection(s) you would like to support. It is an easy and safe method of contributing and enables the parish to keep a record of your donation. If the amount you contribute to a combination of the various collections (Common Fund, Share, Easter/Christmas Offerings, Family Offering) exceeds €250 in any one calendar year, the parish is entitled to claim back tax from Revenue, thereby increasing the value of your contribution to the parish. We are conscious of the difficulties facing many households at this time and are very grateful for your continued generous support.

Our parish **St. Vincent de Paul Society** have been continuing their quiet work of responding to the needs of parishioners who are in difficulty, but they have been unable to hold their usual church-gate collection which funds their work for the past two months. Parishioners who would like to contribute to their work may leave an offering in an envelope marked SVP and place it in the safe at the back of the church. We will ensure that it gets to them quickly.

Our Lady of Dolours church open for private prayer The church is open each day from 12noon - 2.00pm (Mon-Sat) and 1.00pm-3.00pm (Sunday), so that parishioners can drop in to say a prayer or light a candle. Markers on noticeboards and floors have been put in place to facilitate social distancing and to encourage visitors to the church to move in one direction only as they enter and leave. In the interest of hand hygiene, we encourage visitors to use the hand sanitising gel available.

Trocaire Lenten campaign boxes may be wrapped in a plastic bag and deposited in the safe at the back of the church. Alternatively, parishioners may send in a cheque to Trocaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare or contribute online at www.trocaire.org

Reopening of Our Lady Of Dolours Church for Mass

We are at an advanced stage of planning for reopening the church for weekday Mass from Monday 29th June and for Sunday Mass from Sunday 4th July. We really look forward to welcoming back parishioners to the church for Mass but would like to draw your attention to the following measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of all those present:

* Stewards will be on hand to assist parishioners as they approach the church on Sunday and on weekdays. Parishioners may only enter by the main doors at the front of the church, as stewards need to count the number of parishioners who enter. This may mean that parishioners have to wait outside the church for a few minutes before they can safely enter. While waiting to enter, we ask parishioners to observe the two metre distance and to read the explanatory notices.

* Because of the requirement to preserve two metres distance at all times within the church, the seating plan has been reconfigured, with the result that a greatly reduced number of people will be able to attend at any one celebration of Mass. Every second pew has been cordoned off and, apart from family groups, only one person or couple may sit at either end of the available pews. This means that for the first couple of Sundays at least parishioners will be seated as they arrive by stewards rather than choosing their own seat.

* Parishioners will be encouraged to wear their own face mask to Mass and to sanitise their hands immediately on entering the church. The location of the hand sanitisers will be clearly indicated. Please read and follow the directions on all the signs.

* Parishioners will receive instructions from the celebrant or a steward as to when they may approach the altar to receive Holy Communion. They are asked to keep the two metre distance when approaching the altar for Holy Communion and to stretch out their arm fully in order to receive Communion from the priest/minister's equally outstretched hand.

* Collection baskets will not be passed during the Mass, but parishioners and visitors will be invited to deposit their offerings in the baskets or in the large safe at the back of the church, as they leave. More detailed guidelines will be available over the next two weeks

* Once the maximum number the church can safely accommodate (60-70 people) is reached, those arriving afterwards will be accommodated in the parish centre (30 people). Any other parishioners will be invited to remain standing outside the church at 2 metre distance. Our outside speaker will be turned on, and Holy Communion will be brought to those standing outside the church and those accommodated in the parish centre.

* We want parishioners to feel safe when coming to Mass. There is no expectation on any parishioner at a vulnerable age or with an underlying health condition to attend Sunday Mass. Indeed in their recent guidelines, the Irish Bishops have extended the dispensation from the Sunday obligation for the time being. Parishioners who are free during the week are encouraged to attend Mass on a weekday (except Thursday) rather than on Sunday.

* For the time being there will be two Sunday Masses only, at **12 noon** and **6.30pm**. The church needs to be cleaned and disinfected after each Mass and before the next one.

In the meantime, Mass is streamed via the webcam facility which can be accessed via the parish website (www.glasnevinparish.ie) at 12 noon each Sunday and 11.00am weekdays.

Mass is also streamed each Sunday at 10.00am from Ballymun Road and at 11.00am from Iona Road church, and the Sat. vigil Mass is streamed from Ballygall church at 6.30pm. A **Holy Hour**, with Eucharistic adoration, will be broadcast next Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from our church (www.glasnevinparish.ie)

Although Our Lady of Dolours parish office is currently closed to the public, the parish secretary can be contacted during normal office hours by telephone (01/8379445) or email (ourladyofdoloursparish@gmail.com).

While using our website to access the Mass on webcam, parishioners can access our Facebook page where a 'thought for the day' based on the daily readings is put up each day.